

Savannah weddings®

126 Dreamy Details

From the Place
To the Lace

Spring/Summer 2015 \$5.95
www.SavannahWeddingsMag.com



Display until September 1, 2015

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE:
*Local Venue Listings,
Expert Planning Secrets
& 10 Inspired "I Dos"*



SAIL AWAY

Inspired by the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, a Midwestern couple embarks on a nautical adventure to tie the knot in the Port City. By Maggie Harney | Photography by Justin Brown

SALLY AND PETER MCGRATH'S wedding plans began with a return to Sally's hometown, Savannah, and a call to Tristan Zabenko Needham. The creative director and co-owner of Design Studio South calls Savannah home, but she has family all over the country—a fact which suited the Chicago-based couple and their vision of refined, yet reformed, Southern nuptials.

Sally and Needham started by choosing the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, then set about creating an eloquent event that cited the bride's coastal roots and spoke to the elegance of traditional Southern weddings.

"The venue spoke most to Sally," Needham recalls. "Then, my process began. To create a design plan, the bride and I start with a Pinterest board. Then, we make a specific document that has everything outlined—from the dress to the confetti."

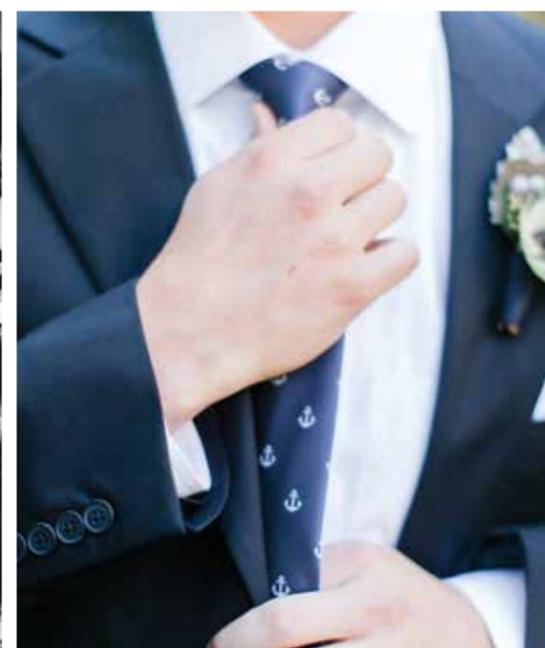
Nautical and Nice

Incorporating accents that mirrored the nautical theme of their venue—from the groomsmen's anchor neckties to the customized cornhole set sporting sailor stripes—added a playful sense of adventure and romance.

Nontraditional musical interludes from Van Morrison, Fleetwood Mac and Ray LaMontagne recordings gave the ceremony an even-more-personal twist.



Sally & Peter
Season: Fall
Palette: Dark green, navy, gold
Planning Time: 10 months
Guests: 120
Rehearsal dinner: Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa
Ceremony/reception: Ships of the Sea Museum



“Music is very important to Sally and Peter and really expresses their personality as a couple,” Needham explains.

Rocking soundtrack notwithstanding, ritual ruled at the nautical nuptials, from the custom designed invitation suite to the classic Southern sit-down dinner catered by Starland Café. The bride even wore her mother’s wedding dress, which was designed and handmade by her grandmother.

“Sally and Peter went very traditional, but there were things they chose not to do, such as the bouquet toss,” Needham says. “The bride and groom also decided on a ‘first look’ and took their wedding photos before the ceremony so that they could spend more time with friends and family during the cocktail hour.”

With a ceremony among gold and navy accents in the museum’s gardens and a reception under strings of twinkling lights in the Assembly Room, the couple defined the new Southern style: traditional, refreshing and personal.

“It was a simple ceremony,” says Needham. “But it was romantic, Southern and meaningful. You can really tell how much Sally and Peter care for one another, which is the most important part of all.”



Behind the Veil

The big day: Saturday, October 4, 2014

Planner/event designer: Tristan Needham of Design Studio South

Officiant: The Rev. Stephen Williams

Gown: Handmade by the bride’s grandmother, worn by the bride’s mother

Accessories: Jewelry by LAGOS, shoes by Badgley Mischka

Hair and makeup: Salon 13

Bridesmaids’ dresses: Monique Lhullier

Groom/groomsmen’s attire: Their own navy suits

Reception site: Ships of the Sea Museum

Catering: Starland Café

Reception music: Sapphire Bullets of Pure Love

Florist: A to Zinnias

Wedding cake: Delectable Designs

Groom’s cake: Joe’s Homemade

Rentals: Amazing Event Rentals

Transportation: Savannah Pedicab

Photographer: Justin Brown, The Happy Bloom, thehappybloom.com

Maritime Bliss

Needham didn’t go overboard when decorating the neoclassical proportions and features of the William Jay-designed Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, built in 1819. She draped fabric in the trees for the ceremony to create an ethereal backdrop and lined the aisles with low-profile white candles and greenery to accentuate the effortless beauty of the historic mansion. “During the cocktail hour,” Needham continues, “the museum opened up for guests to look at the model ships.”

The Color Standard

Navy and gold were an obvious color choice for the maritime venue, but Needham varied the traditional palette by adding complimentary hues such as light blues, dark greens and peaches to soften and round out the overall effect. “This made her palette unique,” Needham explains. “If we had gone with white ribbon on the bridal bouquets it would have been a stark contrast. Light blue adds more interest.”

The Little Details

With anemones, magnolia leaves and lamb’s ear, the boutonnieres added another debonair design element to the ceremony. “You want to work with what’s in season at the florist,” says Needham. “We pulled dark green accents from the foliage to highlight the navy in the color scheme and really made the wedding palette pop.”

Classic Confections

Needham designed Sally and Peter’s cake by adding sugar flowers inspired by the groom’s boutonnieres—and delicate ruffles reminiscent of that edible Southern favorite: oysters. “Pick elements that go with your theme, but keep it fluid by focusing on accents,” says Needham.



Needham didn’t go overboard when decorating the neoclassical proportions and features of the William Jay-designed Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, built in 1819. “During the cocktail hour,” Needham says, “the museum opened up for guests to look at the model ships.”